GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1348
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2006
OPERATION OF SMALL AIRCRAFT TO HILLY REGIONS
Singh Smt. Pratibha

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government considers to increase the services of small Aircraft (80 seaters) on regular basis in various States of the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh ;

(b) If so, the details alongwith the time by which these services are likely to be operated ;

(c) Whether some private operators are not willing to start their services in the hilly regions; and

(d) If so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against such operators ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a)and (b) :- In order to encourage operators of small aircraft to regional/smaller airports, Government is offering concessions in airport charges to small aircraft and in parking charges at select airports, reduced taxation on ATF for turboprop aircraft, liberalizing the regulatory regime for employment of foreign pilots/engineers etc. Some of these measures will help in providing connectivity to secondary cities and smaller airports. However, each airline is free to determine its own business plan, routes and tariffs as per its commercial judgement. At present Air Deccan is operating daily scheduled air service on Delhi-Chandigarh-Kullu and return sector with ATR 42

(50 seater) aircraft. In addition, M/s Jagson Airlines Ltd. is also operating on Delhi-Kullu-Delhi, Delhi-Shimla-Delhi and Delhi-Gaggal-Delhi sectors depending upon traffic demand.

(c) and (d):- The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.